



**Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare**  
NRA Office National Regulatory Authority for  
UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR

**Minutes of the Second Quarter, 2022**  
**(Q1, 2022) Meeting of UXO Survey-Clearance Technical Working Group**

**I. Introduction**

The Second Quarter, 2022 Meeting of UXO Survey-Clearance Technical Working Group was convened between 08:30 am to 17:15 pm on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022, at Training Center of Lao National Construction Front in Vientiane, chaired by Mr. Bounpheng SISAWATH, Deputy Director General of NRA Office. The meeting was attended by NRA Office's representatives including Quality Management Unit, Information Management Unit, Survey-Clearance Unit. and international experts from UXO operators and related Lao technicians from five humanitarian operators namely UXO Lao Programme, Humanitarian UXO Demining of Army 58, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Humanity & Inclusion (HI) and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) as well as representatives from UN agency, TETRA TECH and business operators concerning UXO survey and clearance.

**II. Objectives of Meeting**

- To present on the assigned number and plan for UXO clearance in each province in 2023 which adopted by National Assembly;
- To exchange information and techniques on UXO Survey-Clearance;
- To report on the implementation progress in UXO Survey-Clearance sector, the Quality Control monitoring, the training for the first-six months and the future plan of third quarter.
- To report on the development progress of UXO prioritization document of UXO Clearance sector;
- To report on the consolidation progress of input/comments, recommendations of UXO operators and the initial review of the Quality Management Unit on the National Standards.
- To discuss on other related issues.

**III. Content of Meeting**

1. The meeting was presented by the Survey-Clearance Unit, NRA Office on the assigned number and plan for UXO clearance in each province in 2023 which adopted by National Assembly. The adopted number of clearance area is 10.000 ha/year. The area number was consulted and assigned for the UXO operators in each province appropriately in order to ensure the goal achievement.
2. The meeting was exchanged information and techniques on UXO Survey-Clearance, particularly the result on testing and using modified detectors for the UXO clearance in order to

improve the clearance operation faster. Besides, the meeting shared technical information and knowledge on fuze mechanism and function of BLU3/B and M2-M8-M9 mortar 4.2 inches in order to understand and ensure the safety from those types of UXO.

3. The meeting was reported on the implementation progress in UXO Survey-Clearance sector, the Quality Control monitoring, the SEOD Level 4 training and the implementation progress in first-six months and the future plan of third quarter as the following details:

- 3.1. The Survey-Clearance Unit reported on the first-six months implementation and the future plan of third quarter, which highlighted below:

- Updating on the submission of UXO Survey-Clearance Workplan of the UXO operators: Many UXO operators have not submitted the UXO Survey-Clearance Plan, they only focus on detail of field operations monthly, quarterly and annually.
- Reporting on the monitoring and support to the UXO Survey of HALO Trust and UXO Lao Programme in Savannakhet Province, particularly some key issues leading to failures and inconsistency in implementing the national standards, the inconsistency or unbalance between teams and work tasks which caused the effectiveness of UXO clearance implementation. For instance, using Clearance teams (EOD teams) to conduct Roving Task and vegetation cutting. Some UXO operators have not supported and provided vehicles and equipment properly for clearance teams. Moreover, the Mine Clearance Team have not well implemented and delayed work plan.
- For the Survey-Clearance Plan of Quarter 3, it is requested the UXO operators to submit the plan to Survey-Clearance Unit, to continue monitoring the operations in the sites, to create monitoring system based on MOU of each UXO operator, to continue considering and addressing some emergency clearance/disposal case where is not located or under responsibility of any UXO operator upon the request of local authority.

- 3.2. Quality Management Unit presented on the result of the visit and Quality Control monitoring to the UXO operators and business concerned UXO in the first six months. The presentation raised on the QA and QC to exchange and discuss in the meeting particularly the five sites that failed to QC, and among of them, 3 sites were found bomblets. Moreover, some UXO operators have not followed the national standards and SOPs including failed to pay attention for Marking System in the site, insufficiency of medical equipment. These issues were brought to discuss and figure out in the future. In addition, the QM Unit updated on the progress of revising national standards which initially consolidated the inputs/comments from UXO operators. The QM Unit also inform the plan for the revision of the national standards in the future, the plan for the visit and QC monitoring in the sites, the establishment of the two new QC teams.

- 3.3. The National UXO Training Center updated on the preparation for SEOD Level Training: Currently, it is successfully in basic preparation particularly the survey and data collection of big bombs, using for the training, lesson review and teaching-studying schedule. For the Project Proposal of this Training Programme (to request financial support from USA) was basically agreed and the National UXO Training Center will submit the project proposal to NRA Office for seeking approval from the government.

3.4. The UXO operators updated the meeting on the progress of implementation during the first six months and the future plan for the third quarter.

- NPA updated on the progress of implementation during the first six months and the future plan for the third quarter and proposed NRA Office to consider the staff's rest days. NPA agreed to submit its workplan to NRA Office and informed the meeting that it cannot extend its operation to cover more number of area since it could not guarantee the safety and quality of area clearance.
  - MAG on the progress of implementation during the first six months and the future plan for the third quarter. It will continue reviewing on the quality of UXO clearance since some sites are not passed the quality control. For the request on the extension of area clearance, MAG cannot extend any extra number beyond MOU indicated.
  - HI reported on the project implementation in Hua Meuang district and it planned to extend the activity in Phongsaly province.
  - Humanitarian UXO Demining of Army 58 presented on the progress of implementation during the first six months and it will suspend its operation in the third quarter since it will be rainy season.
4. The meeting was updated on the development of the draft document regarding the prioritization in UXO sector: In conjunction with Tetra Tech, the Survey-Clearance Unit agreed on structure of document as it will be the template for national standards revision; they also agreed on the development of the project proposal in mobilizing fund for developing the prioritization in UXO sector. For the plan in further, the Survey-Clearance Team will bring the discussed document to request and seek for the guidance from Director of NRA Office.
5. The meeting was updated on the revision progress of the national standards: The Quality Management Unit updated on the implementation in the previous, particularly the Assessment Meeting on the needs of UXO Survey and Clearance for further revision of the National Standards on UXO actions in Lao PDR and the inputs and comments from UXO operators. The Management Unit presented the future plan in revising the national standards including the translation on each article, circulation of the revised draft to UXO operators for further comment/inputs, the consolidation of inputs, comments and suggestion, the consultation meeting and other related issues.
6. Discussion on other related issues:
- UXO Lao Programme will use UTM system and continue revising its SOPs particularly the Marking System in consistence with the national standards.
  - The meeting deeply discussed on the techniques in order to enhance the sufficiency, and effectiveness, to accelerate or extend area clearance by detecting the object from a half to a full of BLU26. This could extend the area clearance even more.
  - Discussed on the depth for UXO clearance. It is suggested to conduct based on the purpose of using land which cannot be exceeded 25 cm depth since it will cost higher for the clearance.

- Reported on the Regional Meeting on Residual Risk Management Frameworks for Southeast Asia which was hosted in Cambodia.
- MMG Company presented the methods for conducting low- explosion UXO disposal by using equipment from DISARMCO
- Tetra Tech in conjunction with UXO Lao presented on the result on testing vallon dection between VMXC1-3 vs VMH4.

#### **IV. Meeting Proposals:**

1. The UXO operators to submit workplan to NRA Office;
  2. To Continue monitoring the use of Vallon VMH4 detectors
  3. The UXO operators to recheck the number that shared in IMSMA;
- The MMG company to submit written letter to request for testing the low- explosion UXO disposal equipment (DISARMCO);
  - The found big bombs that UXO Lao Programme reported to NRA office in order to use for purpose of SEOD Level 4 Training, it is requested to immediately destroy the high risk one which found near the community in order to ensure the safety.
  - The UXO Lao Programme to continue revise SOPs and the use of UTM system;
  - NPA to propose to NRA office for the rest day for its staff in the site;
  - The UXO operators to propose to NRA Office if there is any modification of detectors, equipment used and methods for UXO survey and clearance.

The meeting was officially closed on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

#### **Chair of the Meeting**

(Signed and Stamped)

Bounpheng Sisawath

#### **Prepared by**

(Signed)

Buala